

Colchester Community and Economic Development Advisory Council (CEDAC) Minutes April 15, 2010

Members Attending: Nanci Glindmyer, Vice-Chair, Bill Peters, Paul Olsen, J. Churchill Hindes, Deborah Winters, Mike Mazza, Joe Egan, Absent: David Usher, Chair, James Ehlers.
Others: Kimberly Murray, Al Voegelé.

The minutes of March 18th were approved.

Updates:

Kimberly is working on preparing the Tax Increment Finance District Application for the Town and the deadline has been pushed back a month and now needs to be ready for public review by the middle of May. Town staff has been very helpful in assisting in this effort.

The Planning Commission has approved rezoning the Industrial District at Exit 16 east of U.S. 7 to the new Business District and has scheduled their public hearing for May 4, 2010. This will enable additional uses to be permitted like retail and medical office and will encourage additional economic development. Deb asked the status of the Exit 16 Transportation improvements. Al said because the reauthorization of the Capital Transportation Improvement Program failed in March we don't have the funding to work on this project and provide a match to any federal or state dollars. The work may be pushed off for several more years. Lack of education about the program and the overall state of the economy and were probably the main factors. The meeting with the Select Board to discuss this and other business related issues is next Tues. April 20, 2010. Al invited the owner of the local paper to come and give their perspective on how to improve communications about the Town. Church asked Al for any update on Camp Holy Cross. Al said the Select Board authorized having an appraisal done to see how much it is worth. The Catholic Diocese is asking \$7.5 million. The Town no longer has right of first refusal and the Church has had some interest in it.

Six member terms are expiring the end of June. All members would like to be reappointed but Bill would like to switch with Church for the one year term and Nanci would like to switch with James for his one year term. Kimberly will make the changes and the recommendations to the Select Board for a future meeting to reappoint.

Water Based Recreation Economic Development Sub-Committee

B.A.S.S. Eastern Region Divisional Tournament 2011

Joe, representing the subcommittee noted that they are frustrated that the Town cannot donate a few hours a month to help solicit tourism magazine articles promoting Colchester, and potential events and tournaments to Colchester. Malletts Bay is a huge underutilized resource for boating, fishing, and sailing. It is an easy way to increase the economic activities in Colchester without a lot of money, permitting, or drain on the Town's community services. Kimberly noted that once the TIF is moving forward that should free up some time to make calls a few hours a month for the Sub-Committee. Joe felt that maybe CEDAC's goals should be reoriented towards the Bay. The Committee feels that CEDAC's work has not been appreciated or acted on in the last three years and they've done more listening then proactively getting anything accomplished. Perhaps a group not under the Town's umbrella like a local chamber or business group may be more effective. Al noted that the Fire District #2 Prudential Committee is working on a plan for sewers for the Bay and they may be advocates perhaps for CEDAC's work and we may want to speak to them.

Mike explained that Bob Qua of B.A.S.S. would do most of the work required to bring the Tournament here to Colchester but the Town would need to contribute in some way either cash or the items they are looking for. On the list are things like rooms, meals, goodie bag items, raffle items, place to charge the boat batteries for example. We would need a few hours a month for calls and help with the events. Al noted that we don't need formal Select Board support for these events and perhaps we should talk with CCDC about this proposal and see if they could fund some time for someone to work on it the first year. It is easier to then propose something more to the Select Board later if we can show that it is a good economic investment. Kimberly can set up a time to talk with the CCDC President Maureen Garofano and then speak to the Board of which Mike is a member and Al and Kimberly are ad hoc members. Nanci noted that is frustrating to not be able to move forward some concrete economic development activities and it seems like a lot of head butting. Deb envisions it to become year round work bringing events throughout the year. Advertising events with a banner across the street came up and Kimberly noted that they had found the spot on West Lakeshore Drive next to the boat launch and Dick Mazza's but there are some logistical issues that haven't been resolved. Al volunteered to work on that. It would also be nice to have one of the digital signs either at the Interstate or Severance Corners.

Bill had drafted a memo to the Select Board in support of the Tournament. Bill volunteered to draft a proclamation for the Select Board to welcome the B.A.S.S. Tournament supporting this important tourism based economic generator to Colchester and welcoming the participants and their families.

Other Business:

Kimberly mentioned the Select Board is having a meeting in April to discuss what happened on Town Meeting Day voting where the school budget failed, the reauthorization of the Capital Transportation Plan failed, and the Town budget just narrowly passed. They would like to hear from businesses and business leaders including CEDAC. Kimberly will forward the email invitation.

For May's agenda we will finalize support letter and proclamation for B.A.S.S. and discuss the Chamber's Marketing and Tourism Report. There are a lot of good ideas that we can pull out and incorporate into our work.

The next meeting will be May 20, 2010.

Respectfully submitted by,
Kimberly L. Murray, AICP